

REMARKS

The above-identified application has been finally rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Takagi US patent 6,130,458, Ouchi et al., JP patent 11136293. This is a new ground of rejection with an indication being given that this new ground of rejection was necessitated by the amendment to claim 15 in the response filed October 4, 2005.

Applicants respectfully request that either a new grounds of rejection be given or that the above amendment to claim 15 be entered in light of the incorrect statement of the final rejection. That is, claim 15-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102 but the rejection relies on a combination of two references.

In order to advance prosecution of this application, applicants have amended independent claim 15 whose entrance is respectfully requested in light of the incorrect statement of the final rejection.

Applicants invention has been discussed in the amendment filed on October 4, 2005 which is incorporated herein by reference with the following comments being made to the specific features of amended claim 15. As supported in the specification at page 28, one of the features of the present invention is that when an over current is detected in current flowing in at least one of the at least two powered semiconductor transistors connected in series, a drive circuit drives the control electrode of each power semiconductor transistor

in order to suppress driving current supply to the other one of the at least two power semiconductor transistors which are connected in series.

Even accepting the statement of the Examiner with respect to the showing of each of Takagi et al. '458 and Ouchi '293, applicants newly amended claim 15 defines structure not shown by these references. Likewise, one of ordinary skill in the art would not modify each of these two references or any combination of these two references in order to meet the claim limitations of amended independent claim 15 as defined above and as supported in the originally filed specification.

Accordingly it is submitted that the present invention defines over Takagi or Ouchi either alone or in combination. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 15-19 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.50307C1).

Respectfully submitted,

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